

island. Simon Chaudron also had interests in Philadelphia, where he lived for several years, and where his home was the center of elegance and wit. He was distinguished for his literary attainments; he was editor of the *Abeille Americaine*, and was a poet of considerable reputation. He delivered a eulogy upon the life and character of George Washington before the Grand Lodge of Philadelphia, which was pronounced a splendid effort both in Europe and in America.

Some time after the arrival of the Napoleonic refugees in Alabama, Simon Chaudron went to Demopolis. He remained there only a short time, soon thereafter coming to Mobile to live. Here he remained until his death in 1846 at the advanced age of 88 years. His wife, Melanie Jeanne, who died in 1859 at the age of 85 years, his son, Emile, who died in 1828 at the age of 33 years, and his daughter Sylvania, who was the first wife of Adolphe Batre, are buried in Old Church Street Graveyard. Victoire Chieusse, who is buried in the Chaudron lot, is said to have been a French woman brought from France by the Chaudrons, who remained with the family as long as she lived.

11. Adolphe Batre married a second time, and three children of this second marriage are buried in this graveyard.

Adolphe Batre is said to have been a "generous entertainer of his friends". It is related by Craighead that once on his birthday, Adolphe Batre displayed for the admiration and delectation of his guests an enormous pate de foie gras, 15 pounds in actual weight, which he had had made in France and sent over to crown the feast. It is further said that the host was so delighted with what he had to offer that he made a great speech in its praise, continuing until Bishop Portier suggested that the rest of the speech could wait, and would be gladly listened to on the morrow.

12. Simon Chaudron's grandson, Paul Emile, married Adelaide de Vendel, who published in the 1860's a set of school books for Southern children, such books then being unavailable from the North and English books being unsuitable.

13. Madame Chaudron is said to have brought to Mobile from New Orleans, Louis Augustus Frederic de San Ferrol, as tutor for her children. Local tradition says that in 1825, during the parade

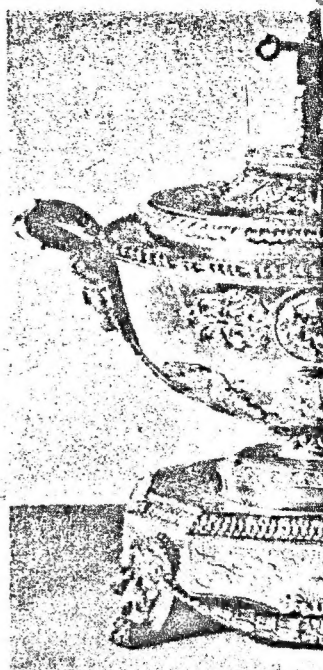
on the occasion of Lafayette's visit to Mobile, the Marquis dismounted from his horse when he saw San Ferrol standing on the sidewalk watching the gay procession with the Chaudron children, and knelt at San Ferrol's feet. Many people were convinced that San Ferrol was the Lost Dauphin of France, because of this reported act of homage on the part of Lafayette, and because of San Ferrol's undeniably royal manner, his Bourbon countenance, and his flawless Parisian French. That is, of course, open to question. But be that as it may, it is an undisputed fact that San Ferrol was a Chevalier of the Legion of Honor of France, when he was twenty-one years of age. San Ferrol is believed to have died in Mobile in about 1841, and to have been buried in Old Church Street Graveyard, but no records are available to confirm this.

14. The Chaudron genealogy shows that Caroline Chaudron, daughter of Simon and Melanie, was married in Demopolis in 1822 to Felix Achilles George, son of Edward and Catherine deBoislandry George. Craighead says that Mme. Achilles and Mme. Edward George conducted a school at Spring Hill, where many Frenchmen had their homes, and that for a time Baron Emilius de Vendel taught in that school until his wife established a school there, when he joined her in the enterprise. Another daughter of Simon and Melanie Chaudron, Emma, married John Elliott, who in 1823 was Mobile's second Mayor. The George family and the Elliott family share a lot along the east wall of Old Church Street Graveyard.

15. Madame Mary Josephine Hollinger, born in 1766, died 1836, encompassed in her lifetime much of Mobile's history. She was the daughter of Pierre Juzan, a Huguenot who had escaped the persecution in his own native France and was, under the Spanish, his Majesty's Commissary to the Indians in Mobile. In December 1781, Pierre Juzan received a grant of 7 leagues on each side of the river at 21-Mile Bluff. This was the first instance of re-granting what had been British property, the grant being made before the treaty was signed which allowed British settlers 18 months to sell and leave Mobile. Mary Josephine married Adam Hollinger; they lived in an elegant home on Dog River Island, which island was later known as Hollinger's Island. (The first Adam Hollinger to come to what is now Washington County, Alabama, was of French descent. His son, Adam Hollinger, Jr., shared with his father and mother the hardships of those perilous days. Young Adam accompanied



CREAMER BY CHAUDRON-RASCH
Made While in Partnership in Philadelphia



PRESENTATION PIECE
Chaudron Made in

He Was Poet, Writer French Refugee Chaudron

By W. H. BRITTON

The last decade of the eighteenth century and the first of the nineteenth saw Frenchmen by the thousands entering the United States. Some came directly from France seeking their fortunes, others were refugees from the Napoleonic Wars and the downfall of Napoleon. Another group entered America from Haiti, escaping the Negro insurrection there.

Cabinetmakers, artists, silversmiths, writers, merchants, soldiers, and others—every conceivable occupation was represented. The works of the more talented French artisans are today found in major museums and historical

societies in the United States.

The New York Historical Society, The Newark Museum, The St. Louis Museum, The Art Institute of Chicago, The Henry Francis duPont Winterthur Museum, The Missouri Historical Society, Conde - Charlotte House in Mobile, and the State Department of Archives and History in Montgomery, Alabama are now depositories for the works of a talented refugee. Jean Simon Chaudron.

Poet, orator, writer, editor—Chaudron was all of these. With the passage of time he will more than likely be best remembered for the silver pieces that bear his name. His silver, executed in the Empire style, is a classic example of the work of the American silversmith of this era.

He was born October 28, 1758 in Vignery, Champagne, France, the son of Francois Chaudron and Marguerite Guilliee. In his early years he studied watchmaking in Switzerland. Very little is known of his life in France. During the time of his residence in Paris he was initiated into the ancient Masonic Lodge Noeuf Soeurs ("Nine Sisters"), with which Voltaire, Helvetius, Franklin

and other notables had been or were affiliated.

In 1784 he left France and went to Santo Domingo. There in 1791 he married Jeanné Genevieve Melanie Stollenwerck. They had thirteen children. The first two were born in Plaisance, Santo Domingo; the remaining eleven were all born in the United States.

In July 1790 he was in Philadelphia on a business trip from Haiti. An invitation addressed to "M. Chaudron to the care of Dr. Seraphin, Pots Grove," requested that he speak at a celebration, evidently Bastille Day. Another documented trip to Philadelphia was made in March of 1793. His "Oration on the Death of Washington" states that he witnessed the inauguration. This trip must have been in preparation for the move from Haiti to the United States.

In late 1793 or early 1794 the Chaudron and Stollenwerck families moved from Santo Domingo to Philadelphia to escape the uprisings in Haiti. His writings, published later in his life, contain his "Ode to Duncan McIntosh." This ode reveals that McIntosh used his own gold to purchase captives from the Haitian mob and then arranged for



PORTRAIT OF
CHAUDRON
In the Collection of
the Corcoran Gallery



CHAUDRON TEA SET



FOR CAPT. JACOB JONES
Philadelphia, c. 1813



COFFEE POT ATTRIBUTED TO CHAUDRON
Typical of His Work in 19th Century

C. Chaudron
3

iter, Orator, Too Chaudron's Silver Superb

their escape to other lands.

Chaudron and his family lived in Philadelphia until 1819. This must have been the happiest and most fruitful time of his life. Philadelphia teemed with refugees, businesses were established, homes purchased or rented and societies formed. The Societe' Francaise held balls at Oeller's Hotel on Chestnut above South. This hotel served the refugees as a place for meetings and banquets. Chaudron was the secretary of "The French Society for the Relief of Unfortunate Frenchmen." He also belonged to a social organization "Les Grivois" and became a member of "The Vine and Olive Colony." His membership in the Vine and Olive Colony eventually resulted in Chaudron leaving Philadelphia for Demopolis, the town in Alabama established by Bonapartist refugees in 1817.

In Philadelphia, from 1794 to 1816, Chaudron worked as a silversmith, watchmaker, and jeweler. He is listed in the Directory in 1799 as a Watchmaker and Jeweller, 12 South Third Street. However, prior to that time (around 1796) the firm was Billon and Chaudron. After 1799 his name appears each year through 1818. His address was at different places up and down South Third Street, changing to Spruce in 1817.

St. Memin, the profile artist who produced etchings of able and prominent Americans, lodged with Chaudron during his stay in Philadelphia. His profile of his host is now owned by the Corcoran Gallery of Art, Washington, D.C. Another, attributed to St. Memin by Chaudron descendants, is privately owned. The latter profile, Chaudron at the age of 40, is reproduced on the flyleaf of a book containing Chaudron's writings: "Poesies Choies de Jean - Simon Chaudron, suivies de l'Oraison Funebre de Washington, Par Le Meme

Auteur, Paris. Imprimerie de E. B. Delanchy, Rue Du Faubourg - Montmartre, 11. 1841." This volume contains his writings from 1796 to 1815.

On January 4 and February 17, 1800, respectively, Chaudron advertised in the Federal Gazette as follows:

"Chaudron, Simon Goldsmith for sale, by the Subscriber No. 12, South Third Street, A large assortment of Elegant Watches, Gold Chains and Jewellery, Suitable for the Spanish and West India Markets. Also a quantity of French Silver Plate.

Mourning Rings, with an elegant Portrait of the late illustrious General Washington.

For Sale, on low terms for cash or a short Credit, An elegant and extensive assortment of Jewellery suitable for Spanish Main and West India Market: Plain Watches of every description, Enamelled Rings, Seals and Necklaces.

S. Chaudron No. 12 South Third Street. Also 400 cases Claret of the first quality, 12 bottles each."

At one time in Philadelphia Chaudron was in partnership with Anthony Rasch. A tea service by Chaudron and Rasch is now owned by The Art Institute of Chicago and the Metropolitan Museum in New York has examples of Rasch's work. This partnership must have lasted several years, but it was dissolved because of financial difficulty between the two men.

In 1816 Chaudron's son, Edward, is listed in his father's place as watchmaker and jeweller. Chaudron in 1818 is listed as editor of a French journal at 168 Spruce. This journal was called L'Abeille Americaine ("The American Bee") and evidently fulfilled his desire to be an editor and a writer.

During 1816 and 1817 plans were being laid for the Vine and Olive Colony in Alabama. Chaudron, despite the

urgings of some of his friends, decided to become a member. He sent his son, Felix, presumably in 1817, to clear land and erect houses. Felix was followed by two more sons, Jules and Edward. Simon and the remainder of his family moved to Demopolis, Alabama in 1819.

Until 1825 Chaudron lived in Demopolis surrounded by his sons and their families. According to family history the only reason he left Demopolis and moved to Mobile, Alabama was his wife's deathly fear of Negroes — an outgrowth of the insurrection in Haiti.

In Mobile, Chaudron operated a shop specializing in the repair of chronometers, watches, and clocks. A letter from a family friend, Victoire George, visiting his summer home in Springhill, Alabama a few years prior to his death, stated that Chaudron was still able to work with his hands.

In 1835, at the request of the members of the Corporation of Mobile, he spoke in public audience and gave the "Funeral Eulogy of Gilbert De LaFayette." This eulogy was printed in his native tongue in New Orleans by printers of the Independent Rue Saint-Louis, No. 65, 1835.

Simon Chaudron died in Mobile in 1846. He was a leading cultural figure of his time, numbering among his friends Jefferson, John Adams, LaFayette, St. Memin, Stephen Girard, and many exiled Bonapartist generals. Napoleon's brother Joseph, who lived at Point Breeze, New Jersey, presented him with a case containing six silver cups, six forks, and six spoons. Only one fork and one spoon remain today; these are privately owned.

With foresight, museums and historical societies have preserved for us examples of work done by this talented Frenchman — Jean Simon Chaudron.

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The treasurer of Sunflower county led last week, and the Governor received sixteen applications for the race.

2817

These waters have not failed
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Joseph Henry Jones George D.
William Henry Fox
This is to certify that the fo-
copy of the original petition-
April 12, 1898. H

April 29, 1890.